AMERICAN GOVERNORS' BORDER STRIKE FORCE



DISRUPT AND DISMANTLE TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS

INCREASE COLLABORATION ACROSS STATE LINES

IMPROVE INTELLIGENCE

INVEST IN ANALYSIS

COMBAT HUMAN SMUGGLING

STOP DRUG FLOW



The Problem

Dangerous transnational criminal organizations continue to profit from the border crisis, while continuing to flood our communities with drugs.

The Solution

Partner with other states to create the American Governors' Border Strike Force, similar to the Arizona Border Strike Force, to share intelligence, strengthen analytical and cybersecurity efforts, and improve humanitarian efforts to protect children and families.





BRIEF



THE AMERICAN GOVERNORS' BORDER STRIKE FORCE IS A PARTNERSHIP ACROSS STATE LINES TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED AT, PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES FROM RUTHLESS TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.



PROBLEM: Dangerous transnational criminal organizations continue to profit from the border crisis, while continuing to flood our communities with drugs.

- In Arizona alone, we estimate that the transnational criminal organizations profited approximately \$3 billion just this past year in human smuggling.
- With record breaking migration leading to an overwhelming amount of apprehension at the southern border, law enforcement is stretched too thin to effectively combat the cartels. This leads to more drugs entering the country, more dangerous individuals avoiding arrest, and more victims of human smuggling.
- Border Patrol in Arizona specifically expressed need for more analytical and cyber assistance, which we believe the state can assist with, but we would be even stronger if we partnered across state lines to target the transnational criminal organizations financially and operationally.







AMERICAN GOVERNORS' BORDER STRIKE FORCE

 The criminal networks are operating on social media to recruit drivers to smuggle people into the country.

SOLUTION: Partner with other states to create the American Governors' Border Strike Force, similar to the Arizona Border Strike Force, to share intelligence, strengthen analytical and cybersecurity efforts, and improve humanitarian efforts to protect children and families.

- The goal is to shift focus of the border crisis to target the dangerous transnational criminal organizations that are the biggest threat to public safety at both the state and local levels.
- Providing a force multiplier in the fight against criminal activity that is tied to the southern border not just as individual states, but together to create a comprehensive program across the southern border to target drug trafficking, human smuggling a associated state crimes.
- Provide significant opportunities to improve collaboration across state lines by:
 - Improving intelligence sharing and analysis of state level crimes that may be connected to border security;
 - Monitoring cybersecurity issues that may increase vulnerability along the southern border;
 - Targeting cartel finances that fund criminal activity in the border regions; and
 - Coordinating and improving interdiction on interstates to combat drug trafficking and human smuggling.





- Other states can assist border states by supplementing staff and resources to state fusion centers in border states who share information obtained both on the border and in other states.
- Partners should not be limited to just border states, but any state across the country that will partner at the fusion center level or other collaborative opportunities.
 - Partner states would send intelligence analysts to serve on rotation assignments at the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) to be force multipliers when it comes to intelligence and analysis.
 - Intelligence analysts would co-locate in border states to improve collaboration and real time response.
 - Law enforcement from partner states would train in border states to get an understanding of the issues and things to look for in their states that can help curb border-related crime.
- The opportunity to partner at the fusion center level to disrupt and dismantle cartel operations becomes a force multiplier in the border region.
- Given staffing and manpower challenges, we need to work smarter together which will lead to the disruption of cartel operations.





- Seizing the tools used to assist the cartels will result in a shift in their business model because it increases the cost of doing business not just in the border states but also throughout the country.
- By disrupting the criminal networks, we will help improve the humanitarian crisis by protecting victims of horrific crimes, improving public safety in our communities and providing solutions to the failure of the federal government.



STATISTICS, FACTS & FIGURES





NATIONAL

- **1,734,686** border encounters in FY2021, compared to **458,088** in FY2020 and **977,509** in FY2019.
 - FY2021 had more border encounters than the previous two years combined.
- **221,303** border encounters occurred in March 2022— a **27% increase** from March 2021.
- **10,586 pounds** of fentanyl were seized by authorities at the southern border in FY2021, compared to **4,558 pounds** in FY2020.
 - Fentanyl overdoses have replaced car accidents as the leading cause of death for people 19 and younger in Pima County.
- **181,970 pounds** of methamphetamine were seized by authorities at the southern border in FY2021, compared to **170,124 pounds** in FY2020.
- **14,167** unaccompanied migrant children crossed the border in March 2022.



ARIZONA

- **56,940** border encounters occurred in March 2022.
- **2,388** unaccompanied migrant children crossed the border in March 2022.
- **2,633 pounds** of fentanyl and **19,572 pounds** pounds of methamphetamine were seized at the southern border in FY2021.
- The Tucson sector experienced a **189.4% increase** in total encounters in FY2021 compared to FY2020.
- The Yuma sector experienced a 1200.4% increase in total encounters in FY2021 compared to FY2020.
 - This was the largest increase of year-over-year single adult encounters in the nation.



